



NATIONAL MOTORISTS ASSOCIATION

Empowering Drivers Since 1982

*James C. Walker
Life Member, National Motorists Association
Board Member and Executive Director, NMA Foundation
2050 Camelot Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Telephone: 734-668-7842 Email: jcwconsult@aol.com*

*NMA National Office
402 W. 2nd Street
Waukegan, WI 53597
Telephone: 608-849-6000
E-mail: nma@motorists.org
Website: www.motorists.org*

Testimony for the Senate Judiciary Committee On Senate Bill 386, June 16, 2015

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, the National Motorists Association (NMA) strongly supports the bill and urges it to be reported out unanimously.

The bill would accomplish two main purposes.

First, it keeps the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code in line with the current federal rules on traffic tickets received by holders of commercial drivers licenses. It prohibits the use of the procedure to have a ticket "taken under advisement" by a person with a CDL license, as the federal rules require.

Second, for other drivers it allows judges the flexibility to "take a ticket under advisement" when they find it to be the appropriate judgment. The procedure is likely to be used for drivers with clean records, possibly for those with a first offence, in cases where a technical violation occurred but which had no negative safety implications, and similar situations where the judge believes that adding points against the driver's license is too severe of a penalty.

Some other states have this procedure, sometimes called "probation before judgment", where the violation is not reported to the state if the driver does not get another ticket within the specified period of time, typically six months to a year. Attached is a report of a short study in Maryland published in the *Traffic Injury Protection Journal* in 2007 which showed that drivers who received probation were less likely to receive additional tickets than those who received license points. This is logical because receiving an additional ticket will in effect get double points, so those whose tickets are "taken under advisement" are likely to drive particularly carefully in the future.

The NMA believes we should trust our judges and give them this flexibility to take tickets under advisement when they find that to be the fairest and most appropriate judgment.

Thank you and I would be happy to take any questions.

Respectfully,

James C. Walker for the National Motorists Association



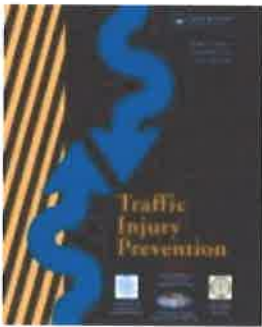
Home > Police Enforcement > Tickets and Cash > Study: Insurance Points Have Little Effect on Behavior

[PRINTER-FRIENDLY](#) [EMAIL TO A FRIEND](#) [SEND TO TWITTER](#)

Study: Insurance Points Have Little Effect on Behavior

The insurance industry makes millions on a license point that system that does little to deter speeding.

The practice of assigning license demerit points for traffic violations has little effect on reducing bad driving behavior according to a study published in this month's issue of the journal *Traffic Injury Prevention*. Researchers from the University of Maryland School of Medicine came to this conclusion after examining the driving records of 3.7 million motorists within the state from 2001 to 2003.



"Our findings indicate that a single speeding citation has limited effects on changing drivers' likelihood of receiving subsequent speeding citations," the researchers concluded. "Receiving fines and points had no significant impact on the risk of repeat citations, although this was the most severe penalty."

Maryland offers motorists accused of speeding two options. The easiest is to pay a fine by mail and suffer an increase in insurance premiums of anywhere from \$25 to \$1000 a year from license points. Judges also have the power to grant "probation before judgment" (PBJ) to motorists who show up at trial. This option allows the court to collect either a full or reduced fine without license points appearing on the motorist's record if no other violation is committed within a 6 to 12 month period.

Heavy lobbying from the insurance industry has pressured lawmakers into emphasizing the importance of license points. In Maryland, about 120,000 motorists receive points on their license each year. Assuming an average rate increase of just \$100 per ticket, the insurance companies stand to make \$36 million in additional profit for a single year's worth of ticketing, as violations remain on the record for three years.

The study found, however, that probation was significantly more effective than license points at preventing additional speeding. The 15,814 drivers who received a speeding ticket in May 2002 were twice as likely to receive another speeding ticket within the next year than the 3.7 million who were not ticketed in May. Yet the 4584 motorists who received probation in May were less likely to receive additional tickets than the 9527 who received license points.

Source: Do Speeding Tickets Reduce the Likelihood of Receiving Subsequent

3/30/2007

Related News

[North Carolina: Audit Finds Flaws In One Out Of Five Speeding Tickets](#)

[Florida Counties Caught With Uncalibrated Radar Guns](#)

[Missouri Supreme Court Considers Speed Trap Law](#)

[Federal Appeals Court Rules A Lane Change Is Not A Turn](#)

[Nevada Needs More Traffic Tickets To Pay Judicial Salaries](#)

Search

Go

View Main Topics:

Camera Enforcement

go



[Subscribe via RSS or E-Mail](#)

[Back To Front Page](#)



Professional
License

Medical, Nursing,
Insurance Defend
Your License



Speeding Tickets? (Traffic Injury Prevention Journal, 3/30/2007)

Permanent Link for this item

HID Conversion Kits \$35

Lifetime Warranty.. Ships
Next Day Satisfaction
Gauranteed..Since 1999



Return to Front Page